

complete work on legislation that will provide the necessary relief and avoid rising costs. Therefore, I call on my colleagues in the leadership of the House to pass H.R. 854 or other provider reimbursement legislation now in order to ensure my constituents continue to have access to quality health care.

The Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program is an essential piece of our country's health care safety net, protecting children's, public, and other safety net hospitals that care for a much larger volume of Medicaid patients than typical hospitals. The DSH cuts were first enacted by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 but were postponed by the Benefits Improvement and Protection Act (BIPA) in 2000. Despite 190 bipartisan cosponsors on H.R. 854, which would reverse these cuts, they are now scheduled to take full effect, creating financial ruin for public hospitals across the country that provide uncompensated care to those in need.

The scheduled cuts in Medicaid DSH is expected to amount to about \$53.2 million for Ohio hospitals in fiscal year 2003 alone. This cut skyrockets to \$108 million through fiscal year 2004 and \$279 million over the next five years. As a result, hospitals will lose an average of 15.7% in payments from Ohio's Hospital Care Assurance Program (HCAP).

Hospitals in my district cannot afford these cuts. Already, the program reimburses hospitals for less than half of the uncompensated care they provide. Reductions in DSH will hurt my constituents, who will be forced to pay for overall higher health care costs.

I also call on my colleagues to complete our work on relief for hospitals in rural and other small communities. These hospitals face unique challenges compared to those in larger urban areas. Specifically, we should standardize the rural/urban disparity in the Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System (PPS) so that all hospitals receive the same payment levels as those in large urban areas. We should also expand Medicare's Critical Access Hospital (CAH) program to allow more hospitals to qualify for CAH status, enabling them to provide care to communities, such as those in rural parts of Ohio, where these health care services are desperately needed. In addition, I support a full inflationary update for Medicare PPS payments to sole-community hospitals. I am glad the Medicare legislation that passed the House included several important provisions that are a good first step to the funding problems of rural health care. I hope my colleagues will do all they can to ensure these provisions are enacted before the end of this session.

And finally, I conclude with a legislative success story. This year, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Nurse Reinvestment Act, which has the potential to address the current nursing workforce shortage by establishing grants and initiatives to encourage students to enter nursing school, increase the number of nursing school faculty and mentors, create scholarships for nursing students who agree to serve in underserved areas, and provide career ladder opportunities for current nurses. Although the nursing workforce shortage is just one part of the health care workforce shortage, passage of this bill is a huge success for both nurses and hospitals who are struggling to meet our health care demands.

However, Congress must fully fund this new law through appropriations if its passage will

have any positive effect on the nursing workforce shortage. I strongly support full funding and hope these appropriations are committed soon. Ohio hospitals and the patients they serve are depending on it.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, each October we observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and I rise to ask that all Americans consider what they can do to reduce the unacceptably high level of unemployment that exists among people with disabilities. No other minority group in this nation faces the level of joblessness experienced by such individuals.

Much of the problem is based on outdated myths and stereotypes, and each of us must consider what he or she can do to learn more about people with disabilities and how we can more fully integrate such individuals into the American work force.

As part of this year's observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, October 16th has been designated as National Disability Mentoring Day. This day is being coordinated by the American Association of People with Disabilities with the support of the U.S. Department of Labor and several corporate sponsors throughout the country. It is designed to bring students and job seekers with disabilities into the workplace where they can learn firsthand about employment opportunities. This is an activity that should be ongoing throughout the year, and I urge my colleagues, all employers and employees who wish to volunteer as mentors to learn more about this initiative by contacting the American Association of People with Disabilities at 800-840-8844, or view the National Disability Mentoring Day link on its web site at www.aapddc.org.

As we observe National Disability Employment Awareness month, I also want to recognize three initiatives in my district that are making unique contributions to both local and national efforts promoting greater independence and economic opportunity for people with disabilities. As the sponsor of H.R. 3612, the Medicaid Community-Based Attendant Services and Supports Act, a bill that will enable people with disabilities to participate more fully in the workplace and community life by eliminating the institutional bias in our long term care system, I have learned much and benefited greatly from the support of Chicago ADAPT and its national affiliate, Americans Disabled for Attendant Programs Today. Their efforts to reform our long term support system and change our concept of disability from one of tragedy and dependence to one that recognizes disability as a natural part of the continuum of a life that can be fully enjoyed, is deeply appreciated.

I also wish to acknowledge the Access Center for Independent Living in Chicago. The Access Center, along with the National Council on Independent Living is also leading the way in the effort to break down the barriers people

with disabilities face in obtaining equal access to housing, transportation and employment opportunities. The CEO of the Access Living Center, Marca Bristow, was appointed by President Clinton to serve as Chairwoman of the National Council on Disability, and her term has just expired. Her leadership in Chicago and on the National Council is deeply appreciated. The residents of Illinois and our entire nation owe much to this outstanding leader.

Another initiative I wish to mention is one that focuses solely on creating employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities. There are several nonprofit organizations in the Chicago area that participate in the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, a federal procurement initiative that uses the purchasing power of the Government to generate employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities. These organizations include the Ada McKinley Community Services Center, the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, the Lester and Rosalie Anixter Center, the Jewish Vocational Services and Employment Center, the Chicago Association for Retarded Citizens and the Community Counseling Centers of Chicago.

These organizations, along with over 600 other community nonprofits across the nation work with National Industries for the Blind and NISH, a national nonprofit serving people with a range of severe disabilities. These groups train and employ over 37,000 people with disabilities to furnish office supplies, mail room and janitorial services, grounds maintenance, switchboard operations and a host of other administrative support services to both military and civilian agencies. By simply purchasing office supplies and support services from nonprofits such as these, federal workers can help reduce the high level of unemployment among people with disabilities and push the doors of opportunity open a little wider. More information about the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program can be found at www.jwod.gov.

Whether a child is born with a disability, an adult has a traumatic injury or a person becomes disabled through the aging process, the need to participate actively in community life and earn your own way in the world is universal. I urge all Americans to consult the National Disability Employment Awareness Month resources I have mentioned and to determine how you can contribute to lowering the unemployment rate among people with disabilities throughout the year.

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we discuss fully here the most serious responsibility entrusted to Congress, authorizing the President to use force in defense of our nation. The decision by Congress to authorize the deployment of the U.S. military requires somber analysis, and sober consideration, but this is not a discussion we should delay. The President has presented to

the American people a compelling case for intervening in Iraq, and this body has acted deliberately in bringing to the House floor a resolution that unequivocally expresses our support for the Commander in Chief.

The threat to our national security from Iraq could not be more apparent. It is perhaps best illustrated by the size and scope of Iraqi efforts to develop and deploy weapons of mass destruction, a horrifying capability only recognized after the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The United Nations Special Commission on Iraq succeeded in destroying 38,500 chemical munitions, 480,000 liters of chemical agents, and 1.8 million liters of precursor chemicals. Iraq admitted to developing offensive biological weapons, including 19,000 liters of botulinum, 8,400 liters of anthrax, and 2,000 liters of aflatoxin, clostridium, and ricin. Inspectors accounted for over 800 Soviet-supplied Scud missiles and 43 of 45 chemical and biological warheads that Iraq admitted to. About 40 clandestine nuclear weapons facilities were discovered and destroyed, and the International Atomic Energy Agency revealed that at the time of the Persian Gulf War, Iraq was less than two years away from producing a nuclear weapon.

Yet, this list of poisons describes only what UN inspectors were able to detect in the face of official Iraqi resistance, deception and denial. For example, UNSCOM could not account for 31,600 chemical munitions, 500 mustard gas bombs, and 4,000 tons of chemical weapon precursors. The inspectors were unable to account for any of Iraq's biological agents, or the delivery systems needed to weaponize these agents. Such was the status of the Iraqi weapons program a decade ago. In the intervening period, development efforts have continued unabated, and indeed have accelerated following the withdrawal of UN inspectors.

Iraq has repeatedly demonstrated a resolve to develop deadly weapons of mass destruction, and, more horrifyingly, to use them. Saddam Hussein murdered 5,000 of his own citizens in Halabja, and injured 10,000 more, in a gas attack. 20,000 Iranians died terrible deaths in clouds of mustard gas and nerve agents. In breach of U.N. imposed sanctions, Iraq has continued to develop long-range missiles that expand the threat that these toxins pose to the world community. The British Government has estimated that Iraq could possess missiles capable of reaching the Bosphorous Straits within five years. Current Iraqi military planning envisions the use of these weapons in a conflict, and as the world waits for compliance with any of the 16 Security Council Resolutions that are presently in abeyance, this capability grows.

Perhaps in different hands the deadly arsenal possessed by Saddam Hussein's Iraq would be less of an imminent threat. To be sure, the doctrine of mutually assured destruction deterred the United States and the Soviet Union from direct conflict for more than forty years. But such a doctrine is dependent upon rational actors and an expectation that civilized nation-states seek the preservation of their citizenry. Such assumptions fail in Iraq, a country that under Saddam Hussein has demonstrated an unabated hatred of the United States and a willingness to sacrifice and murder its citizens in the interests of the ruling

clique. Ongoing hostilities in the Northern and Southern no-flight zones make it increasingly likely that an unexpected event could lead to the use of these mass casualty weapons against our citizens. To wait for an Iraqi epiphany is to invite disaster. Inaction is immoral—the United States has a responsibility to the community of nations to eliminate this threat before it grows ever greater. To concur that Saddam Hussein is a threat is to agree upon the need for action, for can one reasonably argue that intervention is easier in a nuclear-weapon capable Mesopotamia?

This authorization of force is at some level, a recognition of the ongoing state of war with Iraq. Conflict with Iraq has never truly ceased since the conclusion of the Gulf War, and coalition aircraft supporting Operation Northern and Southern Watch have been fired upon thousands of times. It is revealing to examine the record of only the last three weeks, since Iraq sent a letter to the United Nations expressing a willingness to resume weapons inspections. Sixty-seven attempts have been made to down coalition aircraft in this period; 406 attempts have been made this year. It is beyond comprehension to believe that this body would argue for further deliberation, further study, further diplomacy, were our pilots to be attacked so in any other place on the globe. Yet, we have tolerated this low-level conflict for nearly a decade.

Opponents of this resolution have responded by asking, "Why now?" What compelling reason could there be for acting today, that was not before us a year ago?

Three years ago this body declared Iraq to be unacceptably in breach of its international obligations and urged the President "to take appropriate action, in accordance with the Constitution and relevant laws of the United States, to bring Iraq into compliance with its international obligations." Three years ago, we also declared it to be the policy of the United States to change the regime in Baghdad and promote a democratic state.—Three Years Ago!—The credibility of this body is even called into question, for us now to insist on further deliberation, further consultation, further delay. These issues aren't new, my colleagues, they are have been before us for years. It is only the leadership of this President that has allowed us to do our duty and seriously consider the implications of the threat that has been before us for so many years.

The U.S. has struggled against the tepid resolutions and the general inactivity of the international community for a decade. To what avail, but a rearmed, emboldened dictator, confident in his ability to flaunt international law, willing to flex his might against lesser states in the region, and capable of intimidating all others. This is not hasty, precipitous action on our part, but something closer to negligence for having waited so long to confront the danger to our citizenry.

Critics of this resolution are notably short of alternatives or specifics. Regime change cannot happen through domestic posturing. Disarmament requires more than hopes and good wishes.

It has been suggested that multilateral diplomacy is preferable to unilateral action. As a permanent member of the Security Council, it is appropriate for the United States to work

with the United Nations to seek common ground and broad international support for U.S. actions. Where agreement with the United Nations may fail, we should look to our other regional alliances, seeking common ground and unity of purpose. Our success in 1991, was attributable, in part, to the collective outrage of the world community with Iraq's unabashed violation of Kuwait's territorial integrity. Acting in concert with our allies is inarguably the first and best choice, but we must remember that the President has sworn to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Ultimately, the President's actions must be guided by America's national security interests. Where broader regional interests intersect with our security concerns, we should welcome assistance and combine efforts in the pursuit of liberty and freedom. But we must not predicate our actions on global opinion. When necessary, the United States must be prepared to act alone. Our success in 1991 was attributable also to American might and resolve—while our cause was strengthened by the support of the United Nations, our Armed Forces were trained and equipped to act alone if necessary. It was knowledge of American resolve, and first-hand experience with the unrelenting application of our combined arms, not Security Council resolutions, which led Iraqi forces to surrender in droves.

Our allies abroad should take note of this resolution. While we are encouraging the President to continue his efforts to build international support, and to exhaust diplomatic alternatives to armed conflict, our friends and foes alike must know that diplomacy can indeed be exhausted. It is appropriate for Congress to acknowledge the prospect of unilateral military action, and such action only serves to add credibility and urgency to ongoing negotiations. I do not share the deep, unyielding belief in the power of international law and global institutions that some here have expressed. It is not irresponsible to act alone when all others have failed to act.

On Tuesday, December 9, 1941, two days after the attacks on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt addressed the nation and reflected upon the coming challenges facing the country. He noted:

It is our obligation to our dead it is our sacred obligation—to their children and our children—that we must never forget what we have learned.

And what we all have learned is this.

There is no such thing as security for any nation or any individual in a world ruled by the principles of gangsterism.

There is no such thing as impregnable defense against powerful aggressors who sneak up in the dark and strike without warning.

We have learned that our ocean-girt hemisphere is not immune from severe attack that we cannot measure our safety in terms of miles on any map.

Sixty years later, in New York, and Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania, we learned that the lessons that President Roosevelt implored us to remember had not changed so much. Gangsterism, unbridled aggression and acute vulnerability are the very same dangers we face today. In 1941, Congress stood with the President and promised full support to protect and defend our nation. Today we must do no less.